

BZ a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein said tampon has an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 12 grams and about 15 grams, and wherein said demonstrates a rate of expansion as measured by the expansion under pressure test from time zero until seven minutes of at least 0.87 mm/min.

#### REMARKS

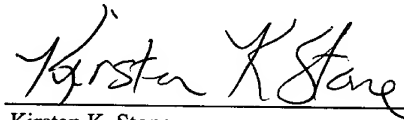
Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Originally filed Claims 20-22 have been deleted. The second Claim 19 has been amended to be Claim 20. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Marked-up Version." Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment.

#### RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

The Examiner has required an election of a single disclosed species and has grouped the species as follows: a) 1-4, 15, 16; b) 5-8, 17, 18; c) 9-12, 19, 19 (2<sup>nd</sup> Claim 19 now renumbered as Claim 20); d) 13, 14; e) 20, 21; and f) 22. Applicants have deleted original Claims 20-22 without prejudice. Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute Claims 1-4, 15, and 16 of Group a). Applicants request that Claims 5-14 and 17-20 be held in abeyance until final disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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**MARKED-UP VERSION****In the Claims:**

1. An absorbent tampon comprising:

a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein subsequent to said compression said absorbent material has a diameter of less than ~~that~~ about 15 mm, said tampon having an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 6 to about 9 grams, said tampon being fluid expanding, and said tampon having an expanded width upon fluid absorption of at least about 20 mm.

- ~~19.~~20. An absorbent tampon comprising:

a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein said tampon has an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 12 grams and about 15 grams, and wherein said demonstrates a rate of expansion as measured by the expansion under pressure test from time zero until seven minutes of at least 0.87 mm/min.